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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: MEM 71-54: Probable Developments in North Africa

1. MEM 71-54 was originally scheduled for the first quarter of 1955. The schedule was accelerated in order to provide intelligence backing for NSC Planning Board discussion of a new policy paper in early September. Contributions from the IAC agencies were received at the beginning of August, and a draft was forwarded to the IAC representatives on 20 August.

2. The meetings of the IAC representatives showed a considerable degree of general unanimity on the main conclusions of MEM 71-54. Much of the time was devoted to satisfying State requests for elaboration of certain questions and for giving more precision to the entire paper. State is now in agreement with the present draft, except for a small number of very minor changes suggested by State policy desks. We will check these out with the agencies on Monday.

3. The only exhaustive discussion centered about the question of the security of US bases in Morocco. Since the present draft contains quite extensive treatment of the subject, the JIC representative, seconded by ONI, strongly urged that precise time limits be set within which the bases would be secure from all but minor harassment. After full discussion of the many variables in the problem, the consensus was that the group was unable to provide reliable guidance on the question beyond the present draft paper. On the other hand, AFPM may again broach the subject, particularly with respect to paragraph 5; they appear to prefer to replace "within the next decade" with "within the next three to five years".

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

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Acting Assistant Director
National Estimates

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